



Docket No.: 449122030700  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Thomas VOGL

Application No.: 09/675,343

Art Unit: 2825

Filed: September 28, 2000

Examiner: A. Liu

For: METHOD FOR RECOGNIZING AND  
AVOIDING ETCH-CRITICAL REGIONS

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 3, 2003, for which a response is due on January 5, 2004 (January 3, 2004 being Saturday). Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.